

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 8, 2007

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
364 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bingaman,

We are writing to request that S. 134, the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act of 2007, be included in the next mark-up that is held by your Committee. This legislation is identical to S.1106, which was introduced in the 109th Congress.

As you are aware a hearing was held on S. 1106 by the Committee late last year. The bill we have sponsored is necessary to authorize the federal share of construction of the Arkansas Valley Conduit in Colorado. As you may recall this bill would allow for an 80/20 cost share between the Bureau of Reclamation and local entities in the state of Colorado.

As was discussed in the hearing, the Arkansas Valley Conduit was originally authorized by Congress in 1962, over forty years ago, as a part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. The original "Fry-Ark" Project legislation granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to construct the Arkansas Valley Conduit, but lacked a cost-share provision. Due to the depressed economic status of Southeastern Colorado the Conduit was never built. Unfortunately, many communities in this area continue to fall further and further behind in meeting continually increasing federal water standards.

The local communities have come together and spent local dollars on studies and planning that have determined that the Arkansas Valley Conduit is the best approach to solving the water crisis those communities are facing. However, they are still unable to afford the full cost of construction. It is for this reason that we introduced this legislation.

The local communities have obtained assurances that they can procure the funding necessary to pay the required 20 percent local match. While we understand that some concern and opposition remains from the Administration, we strongly believe the time to pass this legislation is now. We stand ready to assist you and the Committee in any way to ensure prompt passage of S. 134. Thank you in advance for your consideration.



Wayne Allard
United States Senator

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 8, 2007

The Honorable Pete Domenici
364 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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